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CIA
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Central Intelligence Agency recruiting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was not a popular idea at a hearing.

About 100 people attended a hearing Thursday conducted by the University Committee, the Faculty Senate's executive committee.

The mostly orderly hearing was promised after the Faculty Senate in May reaffirmed the CIA's right to recruit on campus. The action followed police use of the chemical Mace on April 10 to control anti-CIA demonstrators who stormed a police line in an effort to place a CIA recruiter under "citizens' arrest."

The University Committee is to present a report on hearing testimony to the Faculty Senate at its Oct. 7 meeting.

Ken Lawrence, editor of "Covert Action Information Bulletin," said the sequence of events surrounding the senate position on CIA recruiting gave him a feeling of "first the verdict, then the trial."

Opponents of CIA recruiting cited a number of CIA abuses, including de-stabilizing governments, assassinations and domestic spying. "The CIA's very presence here poisons this university," Lawrence said. "It has in the past and it will in the future."

Mary Kay Baum, a lawyer and Madison School Board member, said CIA efforts to overthrow legitimate governments are "criminal violations of the War Powers Law. As an alumna, I ask you to tell the CIA you do not invite them to use university facilities."

Professor James Marks, engineering placement director, argued the other point of view.

"A faculty document says scheduling of interviews doesn't imply university support of employers' activities. It's fallacious to argue that because some things the CIA does are illegal, all of its activities are illegal," Marks said.